

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/708,400 Confirmation No. 2399
Applicant : Takaya Otsuki, et al.
Filed : March 1, 2004
T.C./A.U. : 2835
Examiner : Anatoly Vortman
Docket No. : 18.017-AG
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. The attached document listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 is hereby brought to the Examiner's attention in the patent application identified above.

REMARKS

The presently submitted reference, i.e., Cite No. F1 listed under "Foreign Patent Documents" on Form PTO/SB/08, is not in English. This reference was cited in a communication, issued August 4, 2006, from the Chinese Patent Office in a counterpart Chinese application.

Concise Explanation of Relevance/Copy of Translation **Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)**

As a concise explanation of the relevance of the presently submitted Chinese-language reference, Cite No. F1, an English translation of the Chinese Patent Office communication in its entirety is submitted herewith.

Furthermore, a page from the "esp@cenet" database, containing an abstract in English of, together with patent-family member information corresponding to, Cite No. F1 was made available to Applicants and is attached to the back of the reference.

It is noted that Applicants' IDS of March 3, 2004 includes Cite No. 6, U.S. Pat. No. 6,419,007 to Ogawara et al. This U.S. patent is listed as a patent-family member on the abstract-containing esp@cenet page. The Ogawara et al. patent has been considered by the examiner, in that it was cited in rejecting claims 3-9, and 11 and 12 in the latest Office action, and in rejecting claims 3-12 in the first Office action, on the merits in the present application.

STATEMENT AS STIPULATED IN 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these references, and to indicate so on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 and make the document of record in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

August 21, 2006

/James Judge/

James W. Judge
Registration No. 42,701

JUDGE & MURAKAMI IP ASSOCIATES
Dojima Building, 7th Floor
6-8 Nishitemma 2-Chome, Kita-ku
Osaka-shi 530-0047
JAPAN

Telephone: 305-938-7119
Voicemail/Fax: 703-997-4565

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/708,400
Filing Date	March 1, 2004
First Named Inventor	Takaya Otsuki
Art Unit	2835
Examiner Name	Anatoly Vortman
Attorney Docket Number	18.017-AG

Sheet	1	of	1
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[illegible][illegible]Date
Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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